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RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

Written statement* submitted by North South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 December 2000]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.01-10384 (E)

Racism and discrimination in the developed countries

1. The question of racism and discrimination is being discussed in the developed countries by anti-racist associations which are establishing study groups and introducing educational measures on the subject.

2. However, a distinction must be made between praiseworthy efforts to condemn discrimination and real efforts to deal with it.

3. In the European countries as a whole, a large number of latent racist phenomena (confirmed by opinion polls) are emerging in various fields, such as access to employment, housing, refusal to sell, relations with employers and the administration, access to elective offices, etc.

In some cases, as in the south of Spain in connection with Moroccan workers, racism becomes violent and criminal.

4. The Commission on Human Rights cannot take the view that there are no discriminatory and racist practices in the developed countries despite the fact that they have proclaimed themselves to be the universal guardians of human rights. It cannot remain satisfied with legislation that condemns racism and discrimination in principle but fails to address everyday segregationist practices and with the case law of courts that often show indulgence to the perpetrators of racist acts.

The Commission on Human Rights should, in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 12 December 1997, "formulate concrete recommendations to further action-oriented measures ..." for the industrialized countries, since acts of racism and xenophobia continue to arise in connection with immigrants from developing countries or even their nationals of the first, second and third generation.